

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - April, 2007

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Welcome to another newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre. There have been a few good nights for observing but occasionally the presence of rain clouds and other forms of cloud cover does have a tendency to interfere with the pleasures that can be derived from deep sky observing.

Here is a list of useful information of meteor showers:

<u>Radiant</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<u>April</u>		
**tau (τ) Draconids	13 March - 17 April	13 March - 02 April
**Librids	11 March - 05 May	17/18 April
**delta (δ) Pavonids	21 March - 08 April	05/06 April
*April Lyrids	16 April - 25 April R.A.: 18h 06m Dec.: +33.6°	22 April 22 April Z.H.R.: 12
**pi (π) Puppids	18 April - 25 April R.A.: 07h 20m Dec.: -45.0°	23/24 April 23/24 April Z.H.R.: 10
**April Ursids	18 March - 09 May	19/20 April
**alpha (α) Virginids	10 March - 06 May R.A.: 13h 16m Dec.: -13.0°	07/08 April - 08/09 April Z.H.R.: 08
**April Virginids	01 April - 16 April	07/08 April
**gamma (γ) Virginids	05 April - 21 April	14/15 April
*sigma (σ) Leonids	R.A.: 10h 00m Dec.: -05.0°	17 April Z.H.R.: 12
***April Piscids	08 April - 29 April	20/21 April
**mu (μ) Virginids	R.A.: 14h 44m Dec.: -05.0°	25 April Z.H.R.: 07
*alpha (α) Boötids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: +19.0°	28 April Z.H.R.: 08

May

Major Activity (easy)

eta Aquarids	21 April - 12 May R.A.: 22h 22m Dec.: -01.9°	05/06 May Z.H.A.: 60
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Minor Activity (not so easy)

phi (ϕ) Boötids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: +51.0°	01 May	Z.H.A.: 06
alpha (α) Scorpiids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: -20.0°	03 May	Z.H.A.: 06
epsilon (ϵ) Aquilids	04 May - 27 May	17/18 May	
May Librids	01 May - 09 May	06/07 May	
eta (η) Lyrids	03 May - 12 May	08 May - 10 May	
North May Ophiuchids	08 April - 06 June	18/19 May	
South May Ophiuchids	21 April - 04 June	13 May - 18 May	

Daylight Activity (not so easy)

epsilon (ϵ) Arietids	25 April - 27 May	09/10 May
May Arietids	04 May - 06 June	16/17 May
omicron (\omicron) Cetids	07 May - 09 June	14 May - 25 May
May Piscids	04 May - 27 May	12/13 May

Guide:	*	-Major Activity -Beginner Level
	**	-Minor Activity -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)
	***	-Daylight Activity -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)

Planetary Observations (courtesy of R.A.S.C. - 2007 Observer's Handbook)

Mercury - poorly positioned in the sky for observing by northern observers.

Venus - provides a spectacular evening sight as it sets in the west-north-west well after full dark. On 18 April, Venus passes less than a degree north-west outlying northern arc of Subaru (M 045).

Mars - on 02 April, Mars moves from the constellation Capricornus to the constellation Aquarius. On 15 April at morning astronomical twilight, Mars is ~15 minutes from rising at our latitude (~45°N).

Jupiter - Jupiter its retrograde loop motion on 06 April. On 15 April, Jupiter rises in late evening and transits at ~03:30.

Saturn - has been retrograding in Leo for four (4) months and has nearly reached the border of Cancer. On 20 April, Saturn becomes stationary and then resumes direct (eastward) motion. Saturn reaches culmination just before 20:00 at midmonth. Saturn sets in the west-north-west near 03:00 at latitude 45°N.

Full Moon: Monday, 02 April, 2007
17h 15m

Last Quarter: Tuesday, 10 April, 2007
18h 04m

New Moon: Tuesday, 17 April, 2007
11h 36m

First Quarter: Tuesday 24 April, 2007
07h 1m56

Apogee: Tuesday, 03 April, 2007
09h
406,329 kilometres

Perigee: Tuesday, 17 April, 2007
06h
357,136 kilometres



Look up in the sky! It's a planet! No, it's a supernova! Faster than a speeding bolide!
More powerful than a massive black-hole! Able to surpass bright galaxies in a single
flash!